

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 34-44 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1, 16-33 and 45-46, and add claims 47-50, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for choosing a network element of a mobile telecommunication network from a plurality of network elements in order to provide a predetermined service, comprising:

choosing a server, the server comprising the plurality of network elements of the mobile telecommunication network, all of which provide the same predetermined service, defining a pool handle, wherein a pool handle is a name which identifies the server, and

providing a name server for handling any request from a pool user to the identified server, wherein the name server identifies a request to the identified server by means of the pool handle, establishes a connection with each network element of the identified server, and selects according to predetermined criteria at least one network element amongst the plurality of network elements of the identified server for providing the predetermined service requested by the pool user,

wherein the plurality of network elements are radio network controllers, the request to be handled is a paging request from a core network element acting as the pool user, and the predetermined service to be provided is transmitting a paging message from the pool user to a predetermined user equipment directly through the selected at least one network element.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the radio network controllers are according to the universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) standard, and the core network element is one of a mobile services switching center and a serving general packet radio service (GPRS) support node.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the name server identifies the predetermined user equipment by an user equipment identification, which is one of a temporary identity of the predetermined user equipment and a subscriber identity stored on a subscriber identity module associated with the predetermined user equipment.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the name server accesses a location area or a routing area, which indicates the area in which the predetermined user equipment is currently located, and selects a radio controller which is close enough to the predetermined user equipment for transmitting the paging message to the predetermined user equipment.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the name server checks whether the predetermined user equipment is assigned to a particular radio controller and selects the particular radio controller for paging.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the name server further selects according to a predetermined algorithm one radio controller from the radio controllers, which are capable of transmitting a paging message to the predetermined user equipment.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the one radio controller is selected using an algorithm for balancing loads of the radio controllers.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the name server creates a ranking list of the radio controllers capable of transmitting a paging message to the predetermined user equipment, wherein a first radio controller in the list is a most favorable to perform paging and a last radio controller in the list is a least favorable to perform paging.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein an identity of the selected radio controller or the ranking list of the radio controllers is sent to the core network elements acting as the pool user.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the radio controller sends information to the name server containing an identification of the

selected radio controller and of the predetermined user equipment after having performed paging to the predetermined user equipment.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the name server stores a mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controllers.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the name server stores a mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controller for both a circuit switched domain and a packet switched domain of the mobile telecommunication network.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controllers is updated once a connection between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controller is terminated.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements are a plurality of gateway servers of an Internet Protocol based radio access network, wherein the Internet Protocol based radio access network is

one of radio access network gateways and circuit switched gateways, and the pool user is a Radio access network access server.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements are network servers serving GPRS support nodes or gateway GPRS support nodes.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The mobile telecommunication network~~An apparatus, comprising:

~~a server having a plurality of network elements of the mobile telecommunication network, all of which provide a same predetermined service,~~

~~a pool handle, wherein a pool handle is a name, which identifies the server, and~~

~~a name server~~a controller configured to handle requests from a pool user to an the identified server, wherein the controller~~name~~ server is configured to identify a request to the identified server by ~~means of the~~a pool handle, to establish a connection with each network element of the identified server, and to select according to predetermined criteria at least one network element amongst at the plurality of network elements of the identified server for providing the predetermined service requested by the pool user,

wherein the plurality of network elements are radio network controllers, the request to be handled is a paging request from a core network element acting as the pool user, and the predetermined service to be provided is transmitting a paging message from

the pool user to a predetermined user equipment directly through the selected at least one network element.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the radio network controllers are according to the universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) standard, and the core network element is one of a mobile services switching center and a serving general packet radio service (GPRS) support node.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 17, wherein the name server is configured to identify the predetermined user equipment by an user equipment identification, wherein the user equipment identification is one of a temporary identity of the user equipment and a subscriber identity stored on a subscriber identity module associated with the user equipment.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 17, wherein the name server is configured to access a location area or a routing area, which indicate the area in which the user equipment is currently located, and selecting a radio controller which is close enough to the user equipment for transmitting a paging message to the predetermined user equipment.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 17, wherein the name server is configured to check, whether the predetermined user equipment is assigned to a particular radio controller, and select the particular radio controller for paging

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 17, wherein the name server is configured to select according to a predetermined algorithm one radio controller from the radio controllers, which are capable of transmitting a paging message to the predetermined user equipment.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 21, wherein the name server is configured to select the one radio controller using an algorithm for balancing loads of the radio controllers.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 21, wherein the name server is configured to create a ranking list of the radio controllers capable of transmitting a paging message to the predetermined user equipment, wherein a first radio controller in the list is a most favorable to perform paging and a last radio controller in the list is a least favorable to perform paging.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 23, wherein the name server is configured to send the identity of the one radio controller or the ranking list of the radio controllers to the pool user.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the radio controller is configured to send information to the name server containing an identification of the selected radio controller and of the predetermined user equipment after having performed paging to the predetermined user equipment.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the name server comprises a register for storing a mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controllers.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the name server has access to a register for mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controller for both a circuit switched domain and a packet switched domain of the mobile telecommunication network.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the selected radio controller is configured to indicate to the name server that a connection between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controller is terminated and the name server is configured to change the mapping between the predetermined user equipment and the selected radio controllers in response to the indication from the selected radio controller.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of network elements are a plurality of gateway servers of an Internet Protocol based radio access network, wherein the Internet Protocol based radio access network is one of radio access network gateways and a circuit switched gateways, the pool user is a Radio access network access server.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of network elements are network servers serving GPRS support nodes or gateway GPRS support nodes.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus mobile telecommunication network according to claim 16, wherein the name server constitutes a core network node such as an serving GPRS support node, a Home location register or a Mobile Services Switching Center.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ ~~Mobile telecommunication network~~ allowing choice of a network element from a plurality of network elements in order to provide a predetermined service, comprising:

~~choosing means for choosing a server, the server comprising the plurality of network elements of the mobile telecommunication network, all of which provide the same predetermined service;~~

~~defining means for defining a pool handle, wherein a pool handle is a name which identifies the server, and~~

~~name serving means for serving handling requests from a pool user to an the identified server, wherein the name serving means identifies is configured to identify a request to the identified server by means of the pool handle, to establish establishes a connection with each network element of the identified server, and to select selects according to predetermined criteria at least one network element amongst the plurality of network elements of the identified server for providing the predetermined service requested by the pool user,~~

~~wherein the plurality of network elements are radio network controllers, the request to be handled is a paging request from a core network element acting as the pool user, and the predetermined service to be provided is transmitting a paging message from the pool user to a predetermined user equipment directly through the selected at least one network element.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~mobile telecommunication network~~apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the radio network controllers are according to the UMTS standard, and the core network element is one of a mobile services switching center and a serving GPRS support node.

34-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus~~mobile~~ according to claim 32, wherein the plurality of network elements are a plurality of gateway servers of an Internet Protocol based radio access network, wherein the Internet Protocol based radio access network is one of radio access network gateways and circuit switched gateways, and the pool user is a Radio access network access server.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus~~mobile~~ according to claim 32, wherein the plurality of network elements are network servers serving GPRS support nodes or gateway GPRS support nodes.

47. (New) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the apparatus comprises part of a name server.

48. (New) A mobile communication system, comprising:

a server having a plurality of network elements, all of which provide a same predetermined service; and

a name server device configured to handle requests from a pool user to an identified server, to identify a request to the identified server by means of a pool handle, to establish a connection with each network element of the identified server, and to select according to predetermined criteria at least one network element amongst the plurality of network elements of the identified server for providing the predetermined service requested by the pool user,

wherein the plurality of network elements are radio network controllers, the request to be handled is a paging request from a core network element acting as the pool user, and the predetermined service to be provided is transmitting a paging message from the pool user to a predetermined user equipment directly through the selected at least one network element.

49. (New) The system according to claim 48, wherein the radio network controllers are according to the universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) standard, and the core network element is one of a mobile services switching center and a serving general packet radio service (GPRS) support node.

50. (New) The system according to claim 48, wherein the plurality of network elements are a plurality of gateway servers of an Internet Protocol based radio access

network, wherein the Internet Protocol based radio access network is one of radio access network gateways and circuit switched gateways and the pool user is a radio access network access server.